

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (original) An endoscopic method for treating cartilage or bone defects in an animal, said method comprising the steps of:

- i) identifying the position of the defect,
- ii) applying cells selected from the group consisting of chondrocytes, chondroblasts, osteocytes and osteoblasts and combinations thereof into the cartilage or bone defect.

Claim 2. (original) A method according to claim 1 for arthroscopic or endoscopic implantation of homologous or autologous cells into a defect of an animal body, the method comprising a step of

- i) arthroscopic or endoscopic application of a fluid to a cavity or surface containing the defect
- and the steps of
- ii) application of the cells to the defect substantially simultaneously with a support material, the application being performed at the defect covered by the fluid,
  - iii) mixing of the cells and the supporting material,
  - iv) solidification of the supporting material so that the defect is covered by a mixture of cells and support material without any significant amount of fluid, and
  - v) optionally, removal of the fluid from the cavity or surface by drainage or suction.

Claim 3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein step i) is prior to steps ii)-v).

Claim 4. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the application of the fluid in step i) is substantially simultaneously to the application of the cells in step ii) and the supporting medium in step iii).

Claim 5. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the fluid is a gas.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the animal is a mammal such as a human.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the defect is a joint or bone defect.

Claim 8. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the defect is a cartilage defect.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ the any of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are of suitable origin for targeting a suitable tissue, where the visualization is done by an endoscope.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are chondrocytes, osteocytes or osteoblasts.

Claim 11. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the cells are chondrocytes.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are homologous and/or autologous chondrocytes.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ any of claims 2, 3, 5-12, wherein the fluid in step i) is a liquid.

Claim 14. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the liquid is a physiologically acceptable aqueous medium selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride solution, Ringer's solution, a cell culture medium, a cell friendly liquid and the like.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 2~~ ~~any claims 2-14~~, wherein the support material in step ii) is selected from the group consisting of soluble collagens, fibrinogens and aprotinins.

Claim 16. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the support material is applied in the form of an aqueous composition.

Claim 17. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the aqueous composition further comprises one or more adhesion-promoting agents and/or one or more physiologically acceptable ions such as calcium or magnesium ions.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the cells in step ii) are applied in the form of a cell suspension.

Claim 19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the cells are suspended in a suitable medium such as, e.g., a suitable growth medium optionally comprising one or more growth factors.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A method according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein the cell suspension further comprises one or more coagulating components that initiates the solidification of the support material upon contact between the support material and the coagulating component.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A method according to claim 18 ~~any of claims 18-~~  
20, wherein the cell suspension further comprises one or more adhesion-promoting agents and/or  
one or more physiologically acceptable ions such as calcium or magnesium ions.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein the  
coagulating component is thrombin or a thrombin-like component.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2-22~~,  
wherein the solidification of the support material is a result of an interaction between the support  
material and trombin or a trombin-like component and the solidification envelopes the cells in  
the solidified material.

Claim 24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein the  
cell suspension comprises the support material and the method further comprising a step of  
applying a solution containing a coagulating agent.

Claim 25. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2-23~~,  
wherein the mixing of the cells with the support material in step iii) is performed by application  
the support material and/or the cells under a positive pressure.

Claim 26. (original) A method according to claim 24, wherein the suspension  
comprising the cells and the support material is mixed with the coagulating agent by application  
of the solution containing the coagulating agent under a positive pressure.

Claim 27. (currently amended) A kit for use in a method defined in claim 1 ~~any of~~  
~~the preceding claims~~, the kit comprises two separate containers, the first container comprising the  
cells and the second container comprising the support material.

Claim 28. (original) A method according to claim 27, wherein the cells in the first container are in the form of a cell suspension.

Claim 29. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 28, wherein the cells are suspended in a suitable medium ~~such as, e.g., a suitable growth medium optionally comprising one or more growth factors.~~

Claim 30. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 28 ~~or 29~~, wherein the cell suspension further comprises one or more coagulating components that initiates the solidification of the support material upon contact between the support material and the coagulating component.

Claim 31. (currently amended) A kit according to ~~claim 28~~ ~~any of claims 28-30~~, wherein the cell suspension further comprises one or more adhesion-promoting agents and/or one or more physiologically acceptable ions such as calcium or magnesium ions.

Claim 32. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 30 ~~or 31~~, wherein the coagulating component is thrombin or a thrombin-like component.

Claim 33. (currently amended) A kit according to ~~claim 27~~ ~~any of claims 27-32~~ further comprising a third container comprising a coagulating component.

Claim 34. (currently amended) A kit for use in a method ~~of claim 1 defined in any of the preceding claims~~, the kit comprises two separate containers, the first container comprising the cells and the second container comprising a coagulating agent.

Claim 35. (original) A kit according to claim 34, wherein the first container comprises the support material.

Claim 36. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 34 or ~~35~~ further comprising a third container comprising the support material.

Claim 37. (currently amended) A kit according to ~~claim 27~~ any of claims ~~27-36~~, wherein the kit is in the form of a syringe containing two separate chambers, the first chamber containing the cells and the second chamber containing the support material or a coagulating agent.

Claim 38. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 37, wherein the syringe is a Twin syringe or the like.

Claim 39. (currently amended) A kit according to ~~claim 27~~ any of claims ~~27-38~~ further comprising instructions for use of the kit.

Claim 40. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ any of claims ~~1-26~~ further comprising application of hydroxy apatite e.g. in the form of a hydroxy apatite granulate.

Claims 41-43. (cancelled).

Claim 44. (new) A method for culturing cells comprising using a culture medium comprising hydroxy apatite.

Claim 45. (new) A method for culturing cells to be arthroscopically transplanted comprising using a culture medium comprising one or more collagen compositions or solutions.

Claim 46. (new) A method for culturing cells to be endoscopically transplanted comprising using a culture medium comprising one or more collagen compositions or solutions.